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Flashback

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FLASHBACK

Journal of the Washington County Historical Society
Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 63 Summer 2013 Number 2

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PHOTO BY KATE HENDERSON

On the cover: Rusty Carlton and Josh Reed are just two of the many military re-enactors, living history actors and volunteers who helped commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fayetteville with lectures, candlelight tours of the grounds of Headquarters House and re-enactments of the battle in April. Photos of the commemoration begin on Page 16.

How a 1939 Car Wreck Near West Fork Changed American History

By J.P. Hogan

On September 12, 1939, around 5:30 p.m., University of Arkansas President John C. Futrall was driving back to Fayetteville after meeting with medical school officials in Little Rock.[1] As he rounded a sharp curve about two miles south of West Fork on narrow U.S. Highway 71, Futrall's car suddenly drifted across the road and crashed head-on with a pickup traveling southbound towards Winslow.[2] Dr. Futrall was killed instantly, his car a mangled mess. Of five people in the pickup driven by Thomas Bradley, 45, of Winslow, only one, Earl Moore, 25, also of Winslow, suffered serious injuries.[3]

The unexpected death of President Futrall came as a terrible shock both to the university community and to the citizens of Fayetteville.[4] Futrall had been associated with the University of Arkansas as student, teacher, coach, and administrator since his arrival on campus from Marianna, Ark., in 1888.[5]

After studying in Fayetteville for two years,[6] Futrall attended the University of Virginia where he graduated with B.A. and M.A. degrees before returning to the University of Arkansas (still called Arkansas Industrial University) in 1894 as a professor of Latin and Greek.[7] In addition to his professorial duties, from 1894 until 1896, Futrall also was the first university football coach. The win-loss record of his teams was a collective 5-2 during his tenure.[8]

In 1913, the year after "an open student revolt" may have played a contributing role in the resignation of university president Dr. John N. Tillman[9] and the brief temporary presidency of Dr. John Hugh Reynolds, professor Futrall was selected as the

1939 ARKANSAS RAZORBACK

John C. Futrall

new acting president of the University of Arkansas. On March 6, 1914, the university Board of Trustees, meeting in Little Rock, unanimously selected Futrall as permanent president of the university – the position he held until his death.[10]

During President Futrall's twenty-five-year tenure, the longest in school history, the University of Arkansas experienced an extended period of growth and progress. Several campus landmarks that still stand today, although some are in altered forms, were constructed during his administration, including Razorback Stadium, the historic Field House (which has also been used as the Men's Gym, the University Museum and the Arkansas Center for Space and Planetary Sciences), Vol Walker Library (now Vol Walker Hall, home of the School of Architecture) and the Chi Omega Greek Amphitheatre.[11]

The university experienced unprecedented academic growth under Futrall's guidance as well. Not only did the school gain full accreditation during this time but with Futrall at the helm a number of college divisions also were established. The general college of the university was split in 1915 into the College of Engineering, the College of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences. The School of Law was created in 1924, and a forerunner of the Graduate School was established in 1927.[12]

In the aftermath of his death, tributes poured in for Dr. Futrall from all quarters. The city of Fayetteville basically shut down for his funeral, with most stores closing at 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 14. All city schools also closed, as did all campus activities, including construction work.[13] Governor Carl Bailey came up from Little Rock to attend the services.

Mrs. Roberta Fulbright, publisher of the *Northwest Arkansas Times* devoted her "As I See It" column completely to the memory of Futrall, referring to him as an "imposing figure" who had "lived nobly as leader of youth and men."[14] Variously described as being a "reserved"[15] and "dignified, competent man,"[16] Futrall was also eulogized by several members of the faculty.

Harkening back to Futrall's organization and coaching of the university's first football team, athletic director Fred Thomsen

called the late president "a gentleman and a friend," a man who was "an exponent of fair play and good sportsmanship." H.G. Hotz, the dean of education, emphasized Futrall's "rare and unusual talents," foremost of which was his "loyalty to the ... faculty and teachers" of the university.[17]

Northwest Arkansas Times

(Formerly The Fayetteville Daily Democrat)

12c

FAYETTEVILLE STUNNED BY FUTRALL DEATH

Nazi Polish Attack Waxes Bitter As Allies Report Western Gains

ELLIS ADVOCATES U. S. NEUTRALITY

TAX DEADLINE IS ANNOUNCED

NAZI ULTIMATUM TO POLE CITIZENS STIRS BRITISH

Killed in Automobile Accident

ARKANSAS TO PAY FINAL TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY LEADER KILLED IN AUTO COLLISION NEAR WEST FORK

Funeral Services Planned Thursday Morning in Field House; Gov. Bailey Hurries to the City; Schools Opening Program Unchanged

BUSINESS HOUSES TO CLOSE DURING FUTRALL FUNERAL

CRAVENS TAKES HOUSE POST IN DISTRICT RACE

Roosevelt Issues Call for Extra Session of Congress, Sept. 21

Modern War Takes Little Stock In Humble Mule

POLISH WOMEN CAPTURE TANK

KIWANIS HEARS W A R 'S CAUSES

PERSHING ASKS DEFENSE FUND

COURTESY OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TIMES AND NORTHWEST ARKANSAS MEDIA

A banner headline on the Sept. 13, 1939, evening issue of the Northwest Arkansas Times brought news of the death of John C. Futrall, president of the University of Arkansas.

THE WEATHER
Partly cloudy tonight and Tuesday. Temp. at U. S. A. Farm—Low 64, noon 68.

Northwest Ark

(Formerly The Fayettevil

VOLUME 78, NUMBER 52 — Fayetteville Republic—Absorbed May 25, 1933 Prairie Grove Herald—Absorbed Oct. 8, 1933 — FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS, MONDAY EVENIN

FULBRIGHT IS NAMED PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY BY TRUSTEES IN SPECIAL SESSION HERE TODAY

Fayetteville Man Youngest "Prexy" in History of School

J. William Fulbright of Fayetteville today was named President of the University of Arkansas to succeed the late John Clinton Futrall.

The trustees voted to name the new student union building in memory of Dr. John C. Futrall. The building will be called Futrall Memorial Hall. They also adopted resolution lamenting the death of Dr. Futrall.

The Board of Trustees of the University, presided over by Governor Bailey, made the election at a session called at 4 o'clock this afternoon. All the members of the Board were present except Hal Douglas, whose resignation was accepted before the election of the new president.

University Graduate

Mr. Fulbright is essentially a product of the University of Arkansas, being one of the few persons to have started in the first grade in the university's training school and continuing on the campus until he received an A. B. degree at the age of 20 in 1925. He was elected to a Rhodes Scholarship in 1925 to Oxford University, England, from which institution he received the B. A. and M. A. degrees in the honor school of modern history. While in Europe Mr. Fulbright traveled extensively in all the countries of Europe except Russia. For a short time after his graduation from Oxford he attended the University of Vienna.

Shortly after his return from Europe Mr. Fulbright entered the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D. C. from which he received the LL.B. degree with Distinction in 1934. While there he was elected a member of the Order of the Coif, national legal fraternity.

Served Dept. of Justice

Following his graduation he served with the Anti-Trust Division of the United States Department of Justice, but returned to George Washington University to teach law in 1935. He became a member of the law faculty of the University of Arkansas in 1937 where he teaches Constitutional Law, Equity and Administrative Law.

While attending the University of Arkansas Mr. Fulbright was a star backfield performer for the Razorbacks and captained the im-

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

EXHIBIT SPACE IN WASHINGTON

ENGLAND MORE DETERMINED IN EUROPEAN WAR

Soviet Invasion of Poland Complicates Situation, but Britain Stands Firm

LONDON, Sept. 18 (AP)—The British government was represented today as more than ever determined to fight Germany in a finish despite the new situation created by Soviet Russia's invasion of Poland.

Just how important these new complications would be was not immediately clear.

The government continued to study the situation, but remained silent pending receipt of more detailed information.

The possibility of action such as Russian forces took against Poland yesterday, informed sources said, had been taken into account by Britain and France from the moment the German-Russian nonaggression pact was signed Aug. 24.

Authoritative quarters said the new developments in no way alter Britain's belief there can be no peace until the Nazi regime in Germany is wiped out.

Soviet Baltikum Question

The big question, however, was Britain's future relations with Soviet Russia.

Britain had the charge of the Polish embassy here that Russia violated the Polish frontier by an "act of direct aggression."

(A similar complaint against Germany, made in London by Polish Ambassador Count Edward Raczynski, who invoked the British-Polish mutual assistance treaty after German armies invaded Poland Sept. 1, brought Great Britain into the war against Germany Sept. 3.

(Britain and France, which also entered the war in fulfillment of treaty obligations to Poland, are bound to help defend Polish independence against any aggression.)

Brief Reports From Moscow

It was stated authoritatively Britain had a brief report from her ambassador to Moscow, Sir William Seeds, but was waiting fuller information.

Complicating the involved situation was the Soviet government's declaration it would pursue a policy of neutrality with Britain.

Furthermore, the Polish ambassador remained in Moscow. The British diplomatic view was that the attitude of the Polish govern-

Adrift After Torpedoing

The ship from which this photograph was taken, the Holland-American liner Statendam, was a welcome sight to the men seen in the small boat. They are part of the crew of the British freighter Winkleigh, torpedoed by a German submarine 200 miles off Ireland. First vessel to answer their S.O.S. was the Statendam

Roosevelt to Confer with GOP Leaders on Neutrality Issues

Preuident Invites Landon and Knox to White House Conference Wednesday

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18-(AP)-President Roosevelt has invited former Governor Alf M. Landon of Kansas and Frank Knox of Chicago—the titular heads of the Republican party—to a White House meeting Wednesday at which leaders of the nation will consider America's neutrality program.

Stephen T. Early, presidential secretary, said Mr. Roosevelt had talked with Landon and Knox by telephone last night and said they had accepted the invitation without hesitation. Early described the President as being "very happy in their acceptance."

Early said Representative Mapes (R.Mich), ranking minority member of the House Rules and Interstate Commerce committee, also had been asked to the meeting and that the list of those attending probably was complete.

GERMANY ASKS WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING BONDS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18-(AP)-The German government asked withdrawal today of a registration statement for $73,200,000 worth of funding bonds, which the securities commission had questioned.

The request was received by the SEC at the opening of a hearing this morning to determine whether the commission should permit Germany to issue the bonds.

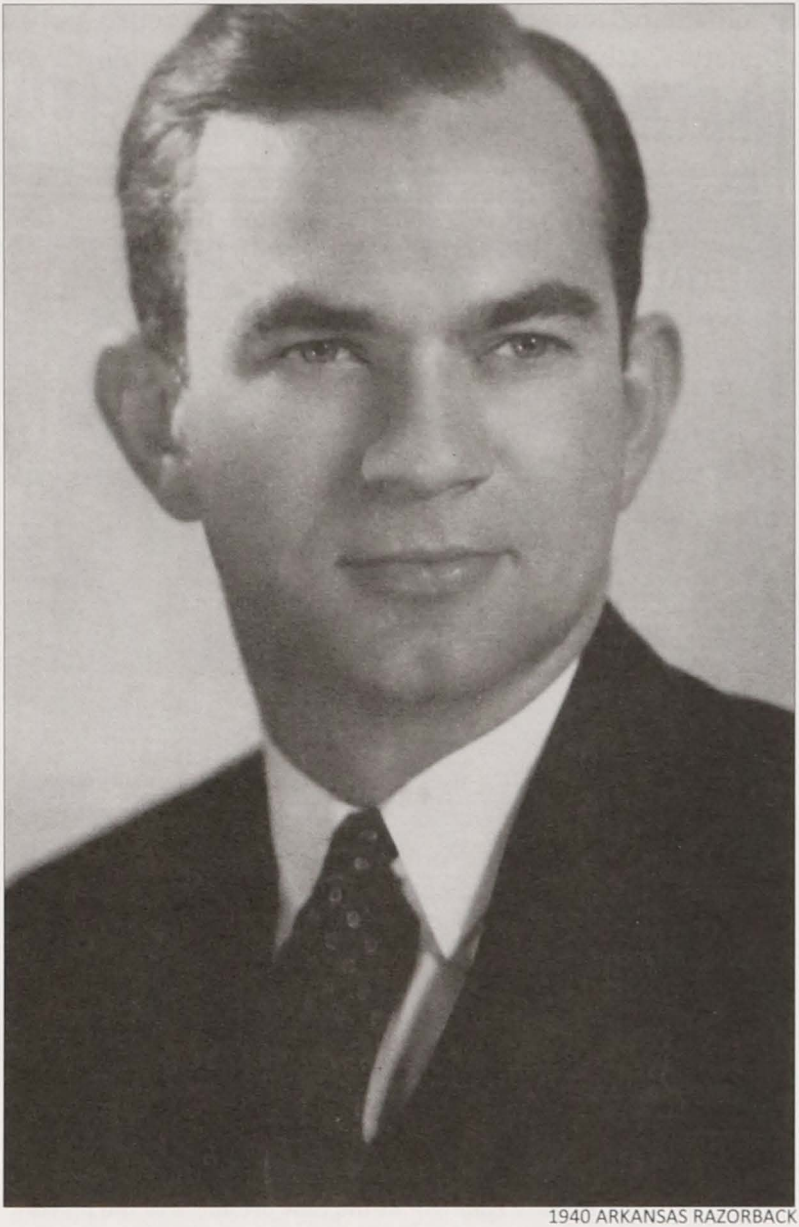
A telegram from Hans Borchers, German consul general in New York, said withdrawal was sought "in view of the state of war existing in Europe."

BORAH AND NYE MAKING PLANS

Opponents of Arms Sales to Belligerents Seek to Align

COURTESY OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TIMES AND NORTHWEST ARKANSAS MEDIA

Within the week of Futrall's death, the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees named J. William Fulbright as the new president of the university and approved naming the new student union on campus in honor of John C. Futrall.



1940 ARKANSAS RAZORBACK

James William Fulbright

Dr. Julian S. Waterman, university vice-president, dean of the School of Law and presumptive heir to the now-vacant presidency, said Futrall would be "remembered for his high standards of scholarship" and his "fearless and courageous" adherence "to the finest ideals of the academic world." Martha M. Reid, dean of women, simply called Futrall "a great University President."[18]

Dr. Futrall's unexpected death left the university without a permanent leader. Dr. Waterman was named acting president, and the search for a successor moved quickly. Governor Bailey, who was chair of the university board of trustees, wanted to name a new president "swiftly."[19] Bailey had been supported by the Fulbright family in his political career and was a friend of the Fulbrights.[20]

Just six days after Dr. Futrall's death, the university board of trustees, chose James William Fulbright, second son of Jay (deceased) and Roberta Fulbright, as the new president of the University of Arkansas. Only 34 years old upon taking office, J.W. Fulbright would be the youngest college president in the country. The trustees' proclamation also paid tribute to Dr. Futrall and his memory by naming the new student union Futrall Memorial Hall (now known as Memorial Hall, the building is currently home to the department of psychology, the department of landscape architecture and the Army ROTC).[21]

J.W. Fulbright's selection as university president was both surprising and yet well received by many, both on campus and in the city. Most observers believed that Dr. Julian Waterman, acting college president, and dean of the Law School, was the obvious choice to replace Dr. Futrall. It was reported that Dean Waterman declined Governor Bailey's offer of the president's chair, an act which opened the door for Fulbright's selection.[22]

Although born in Missouri, J.W. Fulbright had lived in Fayetteville since he was one year old. He had attended the University of Arkansas training schools before also attending the university for his undergraduate degree. He was an extremely successful student and athlete. Fulbright was president of Associated Students in 1923-24[23] and a bona fide sports hero.[24]

After graduating from the University of Arkansas in 1925, Fulbright was selected for a Rhodes Scholarship to England's uber-prestigious Oxford University.[25] (University president and Fulbright family friend, John C. Futrall was chair of the university's committe to select nominees.) During his three years at Oxford, Fulbright excelled in sports, playing rugby and starring on the varsity lacrosse team,[26] and was well-respected enough by his fellow students to be invited to join several elite clubs including the (Samuel) Johnson Society of London, of which he was elected president.[27]

Fulbright graduated from Oxford in 1928 and after taking the Grand Tour of Europe returned to America. In the summer of 1929, while helping an old college mate with legal and financial difficulties in Washington, D.C., Fulbright met Elizabeth "Betty" Williams, daughter of a prominent Philadelphia family. After a "prolonged and difficult" courtship, they were married June 15, 1932.[28]

During this time, Fulbright also pursued a law degree from George Washington University, finishing second in his class.[29] In 1936, he returned to Fayetteville to take a part-time faculty member position in the University of Arkansas School of Law.[30]

By 1939, he had settled into a comfortable, promising academic life when the unexpected death of President Futrall led to his selection as new president of the University of Arkansas. From that moment on, Fulbright was thrust into a public spotlight that would shine on him for the better part of the next forty years.

Fulbright's tenure as university president was, however, a brief one: just less than two years. He was reportedly quite popular with students and although he had little time to leave much of a legacy, he did focus on scholastic awards and he and English professor Jobelle Holcombe instituted an Honors Day program, which included presenting Senior Keys to top-rated senior students.[31]

If some people might argue that Fulbright's selection as university president had been political, the result of his mother's

support and friendship with Governor Carl Bailey, his ouster can leave no doubt. Governor Bailey had been in a political power struggle with rival Homer Adkins, either directly or by proxy, since the early 1930s.[32]

In 1940, the two adversaries faced each other directly in the Arkansas gubernatorial campaign. In a factional and fractional battle, Adkins won the election. His doing so guaranteed the shortening of J.W. Fulbright's tenure as university president. For one thing, Adkins wanted to rid the university of ex-Governor Bailey's friends and supporters, which included Fulbright.[33] Adkins also had a fair-sized axe to grind with Roberta Fulbright who had made her opposition to his candidacy quite clear.[34]

Homer M. Adkins

True to expectations, by mid-May 1940, Adkins was preparing for a housecleaning of Bailey adherents at the University of Arkansas – chief among those, president J.W. Fulbright. On June 9, 1940, the Adkins-stuffed board of trustees voted 6-4 to dismiss Fulbright, who had declined to resign.[35] Arthur M. Harding was selected as the next president of the University of Arkansas.

Despite the humiliation of being dismissed from his university position by a family and political enemy, J.W. Fulbright did not spend much time feeling sorry for himself. In 1942, family lawyer and friend, Clyde T. Ellis chose to step down from his U.S. congressional seat to run for the U. S. Senate.[36] He recommended Fulbright run to replace him.

Fulbright ran against Karl Greenhaw, a noted Fayetteville attorney and Adkins appointee to the Arkansas Supreme Court, and Virgil Willis of Harrison. Fulbright received the most votes in the primary and then defeated Greenhaw in a runoff election.[37]

Although he only served one term as a congressman, Fulbright was a very effective legislator – especially so for a junior member of the House. In early April 1943, he had attempted to introduce legislation that would create an international body along the lines of the League of Nations, which had failed to gain U.S. support after World War I. American attitudes were different this time, however, and on September 21, 1943, the Fulbright Resolution passed the House by a vote of 360 to 29.[38]

The resolution called for "the creation of appropriate international machinery with power adequate to establish and to maintain a just and lasting peace, among the nations of the world, and as favoring participation by the United States therein through its constitutional processes."[39] The Fulbright Resolution is credited with being a primary impetus leading to the creation of the United Nations.

Buoyed by his success as a congressman, Fulbright was emboldened to challenge incumbent Hattie Caraway in the 1944 Arkansas senatorial campaign. In the race, Fulbright would also compete against Col. Thomas H. Barton of El Dorado and his long-time nemesis, Governor Homer Adkins. Once again, the election ended with a runoff and once again, Fulbright won, decisively defeating Adkins – in a moment of supreme irony, no doubt – for the senatorial seat.[40]

Over the next thirty years, J.W. Fulbright became one of the most powerful leaders in the nation. Among his significant, en-

during accomplishments: early preparations for the establishment of the United Nations, creation of what has become the very prestigious Fulbright Scholarships, and opposition to Senator McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee.[41] Senator Fulbright directly challenged Senator McCarthy's communist witch-hunting techniques during the committee meetings.[42]

Many in the United States may consider Senator Fulbright's early and powerful opposition to the war in Vietnam as perhaps the hallmark of his career. Even though he had signed the original Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which was used to justify U. S. military expansion in Indochina, Senator Fulbright changed his mind on the war and his position against it gave credence and respectability to the activist movement that opposed the war.

In the end, J.W. Fulbright became one of the most important political figures of the 20th century in the United States. His contribution has been summed up as follows:

> No senator in this century has had greater influence on our foreign policy; his critical dissent in the Cold War and in the Vietnam War ... and his sponsorship of the celebrated Fulbright scholarships made an enduring imprint on both foreign policy ... and the way the Americans and other nations regard each other.[43]

Senator Fulbright's contribution to and influence on American history came to pass after that tragic car wreck on an out-of-the-way stretch of highway, in an out-of-the-way part of the nation, long ago. The unexpected death of long-time university president John C. Futrall and the sequence of events that followed led to the ascendancy of J.W. Fulbright, university president, congressman, long-serving senator, who for decades was a central figure on the national scene and who made an indelible stamp on American politics forever.[46]

End Notes

1. *The Arkansas Traveler*, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Sept. 22, 1939, p. 3.

2. Among the theories as to why Dr. Futrall's vehicle swerved into the oncoming lane, it was suggested that he "suffered a heart attack just before the accident." *Arkansas Gazette*, Sept. 14, 1939, and Leflar, Robert A., *The First 100 Years: Centennial History of the University of Arkansas*, University of Arkansas Foundation Inc., Fayetteville, Ark., p. 101.
3. *Northwest Arkansas Times* (NWAT), Fayetteville, Arkansas, Sept. 13, 1939. Mr. Moore sustained a broken collarbone, shock, as well as cuts and bruises. He was taken to City Hospital where he recovered from his injuries. The other passengers in the pickup were W. R. Sealey, his four-year old son, and Clifton Mills, all of Winslow.
4. In her "As I See It" column for the Sept. 13, 1939, *Northwest Arkansas Times*, p. 2, Mrs. Roberta Fulbright said Futrall's unexpected death "stunned" people "into abject silence and dismay."
5. *The Arkansas Traveler*, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Sept. 22, 1939, p. 3.
6. Leflar, Robert A., *The First 100 Years: Centennial History of the University of Arkansas*, University of Arkansas Foundation Inc., Fayetteville, Arkansas, p. 30. Leflar states that Futrall transferred from Arkansas because of "some disciplinary difficulties."
7. Ibid.
8. Henry, Orville and Bailey, Jim, *The Razorbacks: A Story of Arkansas Football*, The Strode Publishers, Huntsville, Alabama, 1973; new edition, The University of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 1996, pp. 427.
9. Leflar, p. 79. The student revolt, known as the X-Ray Incident, occurred in February 1912 in reaction to, among other grievances, student opposition to book costs and President Tillman's administration. *The X-Ray* was an "unauthorized" student newspaper printed in Fort Smith. All 36 contributors to the *X-Ray* were expelled but were reinstated after a March 1912 meeting of the university Board of Trustees and a seven-man committee representing the dissident students.
10. Leflar, p. 87.
11. *Southwest-Times Record*, Fort Smith, Arkansas, June 5, 1938, p. 6.
12. Ibid.
13. NWAT, September 14, 1939, p.1.
14. Ibid., September 13, 1939, p. 2.
15. Leflar, p. 88.
16. Woods, Randall Bennett, *Fulbright: A Biography*, Cambridge University Press, 1995, p. 54.
17. *The Arkansas Traveler*, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, September 22, 1939, p. 3.
18. Ibid.
19. Leflar, p. 173.
20. Mrs. Fulbright had been a "vocal supporter" of Bailey in his 1938 gubernatorial campaign. Stuck, Dorothy D. and Snow, Nan, *Roberta: A Most Remarkable Fulbright*, The University of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville, 1997, p. 145.
21. NWAT, September 18, 1939.
22. There are various reasons as to why Dr. Waterman declined the presidency. One version says he "turned down the offer" because he had "grave doubts that Arkansas was ready for a Jewish University chief executive." Stuck and Snow, p. 135, which is a direct quotation taken from, Gilbert, Allan, A Fulbright Chron-

icle, Fulbright Investment Co., Fayetteville, AR, 1980, p. 137. Another version says that Mrs. Waterman did not believe the job had been actually offered to her husband. She was "quite disappointed" it was said, and Dean Waterman was "crushed." Woods, p. 56.

23. Leflar, p. 388.
24. Woods, p. 14. In the 1922 Homecoming game against Southern Methodist University, Fulbright accounted for all points in a 9-0 Razorback victory. He passed for one score and kicked a field goal for the last three points.
25. Woods, pp. 19-20.
26. Ibid., pp. 25, 29-30.
27. Ibid., p. 32.
28. Ibid., p. 40.
29. Ibid., pp. 40-41.
30. Ibid., pp. 50-51.
31. Leflar, p. 175.
32. Stuck and Snow, p. 144.
33. Ibid., p. 148.
34. Ibid., pp. 144-148.
35. Leflar, p. 178.
36. Woods, p. 65. Ellis would lose the election to John. L. McClellan, who went on to serve thirty-six years in the U. S. Senate.
37. Ibid., p. 70. It should also be noted that in Arkansas politics of the time, winning the Democratic primary was tantamount to winning the general election as there was only token Republican opposition in those days.
38. Ibid., pp. 80, 83.
39. Internet document, http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/policy/1943/1943-09-21a.html
40. Woods, p. 98. The runoff election results were: 117,121 for Fulbright to 85,121 for Adkins.
41. Blumenthal, Sidney, "Fulbright's Legacy," *The New Yorker*, March 6, 1995, p. 90. Blumenthal points out that Fulbright was "the sole senator to vote against funding" McCarthy's committee and that he "instigated the Senate's condemnation of McCarthy."
42. Woods, p. 178.
43. Powell, Lee Riley, *J. William Fulbright and His Time*, Guild Bindery Press, Memphis, Tennessee, 1996, p. v.

150th Anniversary Re-enactment

During the third week of April, Headquarters House and the neighborhoods along East Dickson Street came alive with the sights and sounds of the 19th century as the Washington County Historical Society staged a re-enactment of the Battle of Fayetteville on its 150th anniversary.

Along with the re-enactment, historian Kim Allen Scott provided a lecture about the battle; living-history actors portrayed a scene from early days of the war, giving the audience a sense of what Fayetteville was like in advance of the battle; and a candlelight tour of the grounds of Headquarters House with living-history actors portraying people and events associated with the battle.

Photos are by Kate Henderson, Carolyn Leonard and Tess Kidd.

Confederate re-enactors pitch their camp on the

of the Battle of Fayetteville

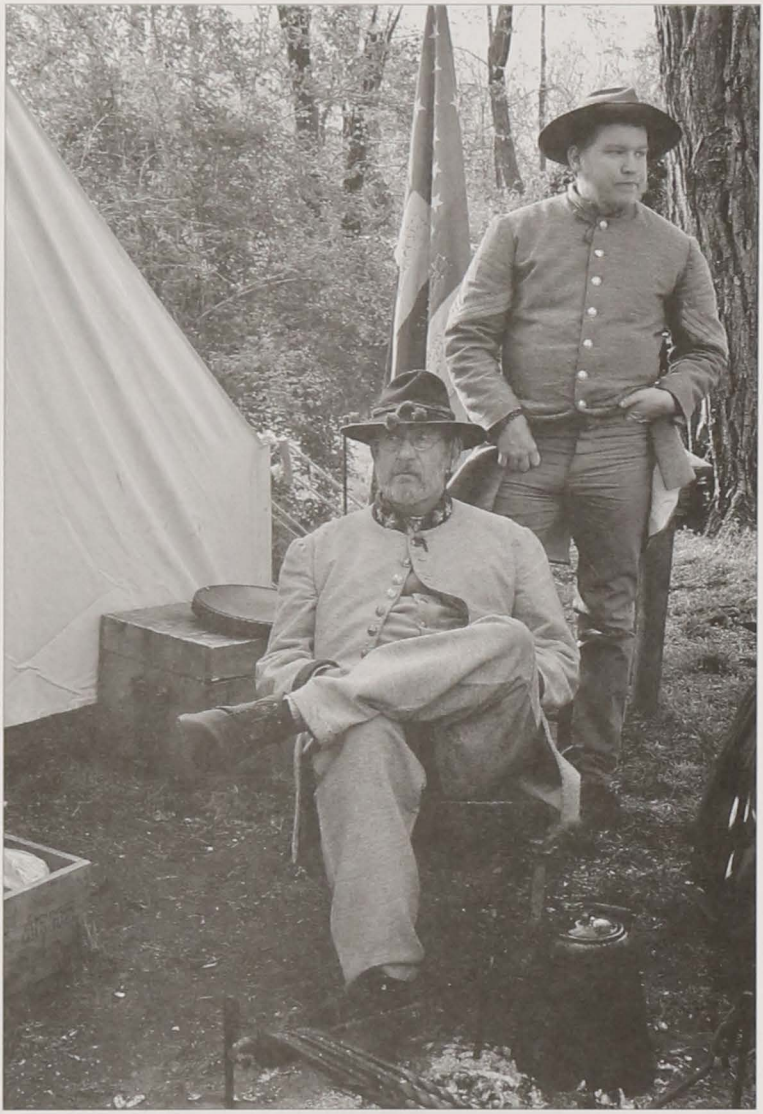
grounds of the Meldrum home on East Dickson.

Above, Kim Allen Scott, a professor and university archivist at Montana State University in Bozeman, Mont., presented a lecture about the Battle of Fayetteville and the battle's reflection of the greater Civil War. Scott, an alumnus of the University of Arkansas, described aspects of the battle and war that were much the same such as the difference between quality of firearms used by the two sides, the division of Arkansans fighting Arkansans, the bloodshed of troops on both sides, and the ultimate futility of the battle: after repulsing the enemy and retaining control of Fayetteville, the federal troops relinquished their hold, withdrawing to Missouri and allowing the Confederate Army to re-occupy Fayetteville.

At right, four living-history actors at the First Christian Church portrayed characters from an early episode of the Civil War in which Fayetteville resident Jonas March Tebbetts was arrested for treason. From left, Robert Guadagnini portrayed Union Gen. Schofield; Russell Pennington portrayed Confederate Gen. Benjamin McCulloch; Grant Guinn portrayed Tebbetts; and Stephen Guinn portrayed Pastor William Baxter.

Above, Union re-enactors are silhouetted against the smoke of their first volley of fire, released upon the Confederate re-enactors beyond. The Battle of Fayetteville occurred on these very grounds 150 years earlier.

Left, Marcus Woodard holds the company flag of the First Arkansas Infantry during a re-enactment of the Battle of Fayetteville on its 150th anniversary.

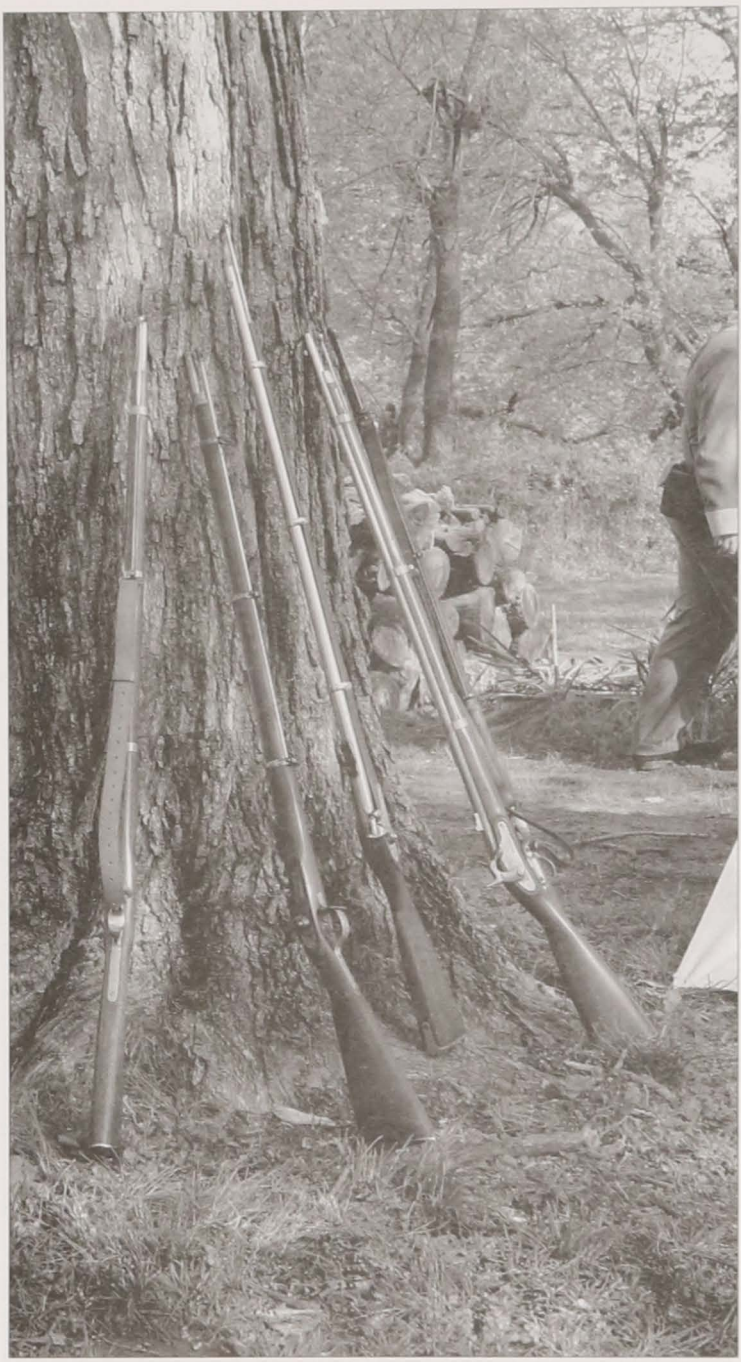


Above, two Confederate re-enactors, Jim Morris and Patrick Emde, in camp.

Left, another Confederate re-enactor, Robert Kroening, takes a rest in front of the Meldrum family home, midway on the hillside between Tebbetts House and the location where Confederate troops set artillery 150 years ago.

Above, Elaina Tillery, Hannah Saunders and Isabelle Nystrom wear the hoops and skirts of 19th century.

Left, Ty Lanehart as a Union re-enactor on the grounds of Headquarters House.



Above, Confederate re-enactors make a charge on Headquarters House from Dickson Street, firing a first volley upon the Union re-enactors just as the Confederate troops of 150 years earlier had.

Left, the muskets and rifles of the Confederate army proved insufficient to combat the rifled guns with longer range that were used by the Union.

Right, Josh Reed outfitted for service in the Union army.

Above, Ian Beard portrays Union Col. Marcus LaRue Harrison during the re-enactment of the Battle of Fayetteville. With him are Kameron Kerley, portraying Harrison's son, and Larry Fultz.

Right, Robert Kroening and his father, Bob Kroening, stand ready for the coming battle, dressed in the uniforms of the Confederate army.

Above, two abreast, Confederate re-enactors march along Dickson Street en route to meet Union re-enactors on the field of battle.

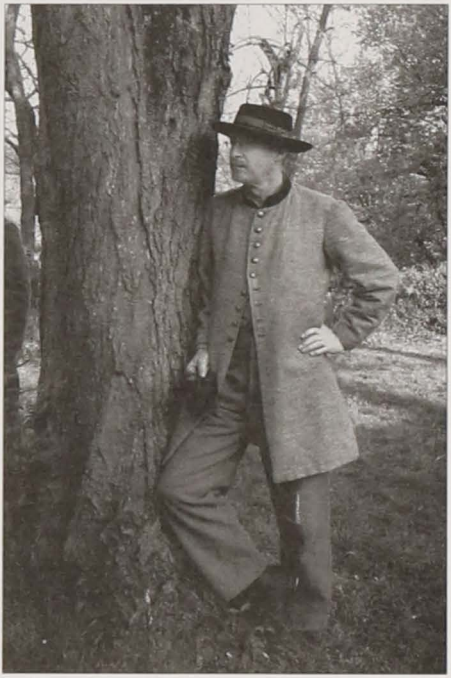
Right, Confederate re-enactors pitched their camp on the front yard of the Meldrum family for two nights, giving visitors a taste, both literally and figuratively, of life lived 'round a campfire.

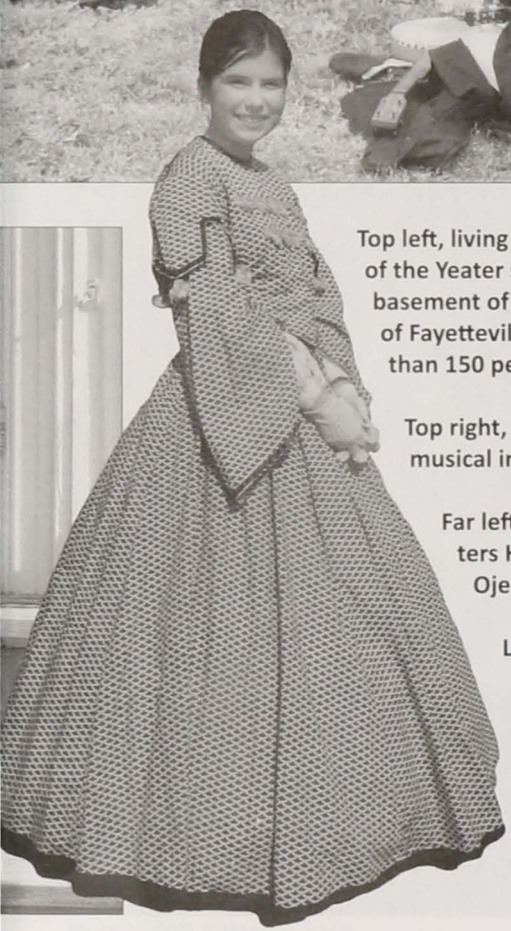
Above, Tess and Doug Kidd take a break from the battle.

Top right, Amber and T.J. Brown were two of the dozens of re-enactors who volunteered to recreate the Battle of Fayetteville.

Lower near right, Joseph Rainey dressed in the blue uniform of a Union soldier at the entrance to Headquarters House.

Far right, Jimmy Walker wears the butternut and gray colors of the Confederate army.





Top left, living history actors recount the story of the Yeater sisters, who hid with others in the basement of the Baxter House while the Battle of Fayetteville swirled around them. More than 150 people watched the re-enactments.

Top right, Union re-enactors break out the musical instruments in the evening.

Far left, on the front steps of Headquarters House, Dwayne Sulffridge and Milt Ojeman.

Left, Abby Hutchins is one of the students who has attended the Washington County Historical Society's Heritage School.

Above, Jim Jones awaits orders.

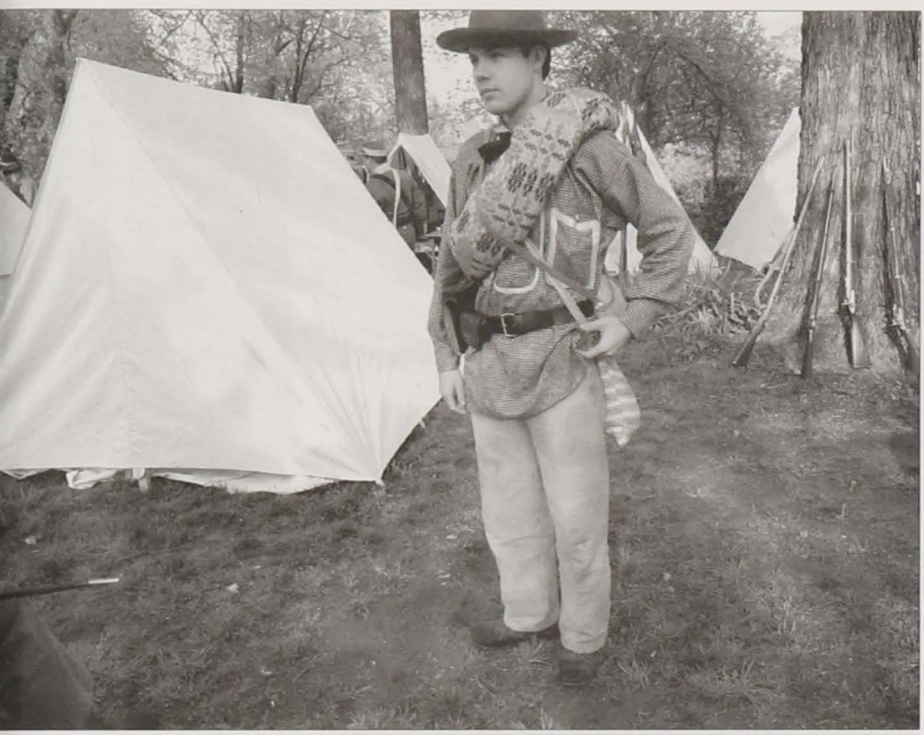
Left, Confederate re-enactors gather around their captain, portrayed by Matt Emde.

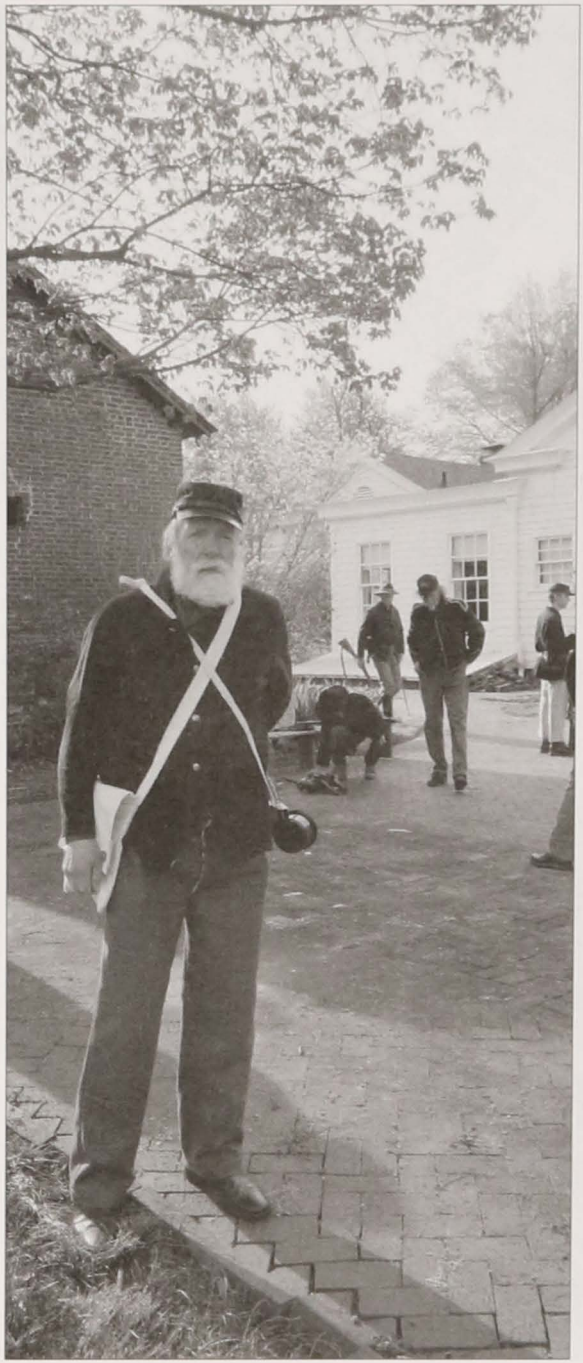
Right, Joe Wittkop is armed and ready.

Above, Jim Kuhn, stands on the porch of the Meldrum House.

Above right, Mackenzie Taylor pauses in the Confederate camp.

Right, Confederate re-enactors muster for duty.





Above, Union re-enactors take up defensive positions.

Left, Jon Benedict awaits orders behind Headquarters House.

Right, Kate Henderson joins Union re-enactors on the steps of Headquarters House.

Two Letters from Matilda Winlock Tebbetts

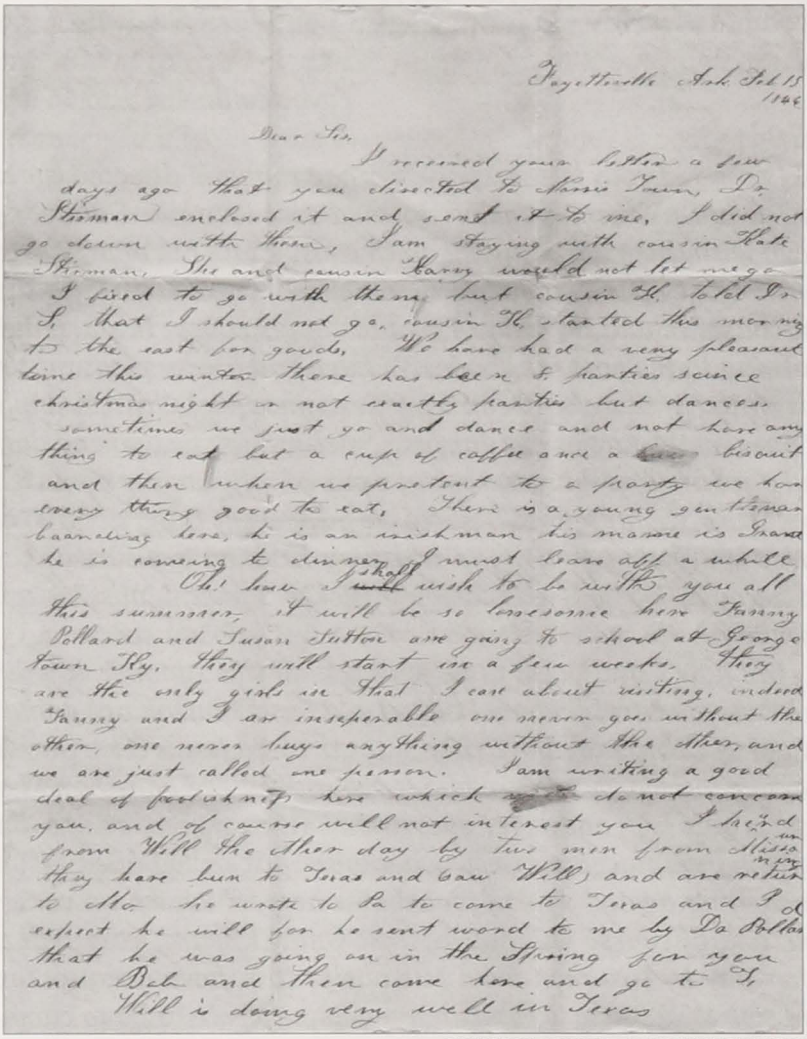
The two letters following were sent by Matilda Tebbetts, nee Winlock (1830-1892), to her sister, Louisa Ann Winlock Durrett (1822-1874), in 1846 and 1847. The first was written while both Matilda and Louisa were both still single. Matilda was attending the Fayetteville Female Seminary at the time. Prior to moving to Fayetteville for schooling, though, she had lived with her sister, Elizabeth M. Stirman, and Elizabeth's husband, Dr. John Stirman, at Norristown, Ark., a riverfront town near present-day Russellville. Upon moving to Fayetteville, she lived with her cousin, Catherine Stirman, and Catherine's husband, James Harvey Stirman. Mr. Stirman was a leading merchant in Fayetteville.

In the first note, she mentions several other people, some of whom are further described here:

- Bob – her brother, Robert Stanton Winlock (1826-1897).
- Will – her brother, William Winlock
- Fanny Pollard – the daughter of Dr. Thomas Jefferson Pollard and Mary Willis Stirman Pollard. She married William R. Quarles in 1850, very likely the "Mr. Qualls" mentioned later in the letter.
- Joseph L. Dickson (1817-1868) – the son of Ephraim D. Dickson and Catherine Thompson Dickson. He became a leading merchant, and Fayetteville's Dickson Street is named after their family.
- Charles G. Baylor does not appear to have stayed in Fayetteville long but moved to Texas by 1850.
- No information has been found yet on Mr. Grant, the young Irish gentleman whom Matilda mentions as boarding with the Stirmans.

Punctuation has been added to show sentence breaks, but spelling is typed as it appeared in the written document.

The first letter was addressed to Miss Louisa Winlock of



Fayetteville Ark. Feb 18
1844

Dear Sis,

I received your letter a few days ago that you directed to Miss Jane D. Stirman enclosed it and sent it to me, I did not go down with them, I am staying with cousin Kate Stirman. Sis and cousin Harry would not let me go I tried to go with them but cousin H. told Dr. S. that I should not go. cousin H. started this morning to the east for goods. We have had a very pleasant time this winter there has been S. parties scince christmas night or not exactly parties but dances. sometimes we just go and dance and not have any thing to eat but a cup of coffee and a biscuit and then when we present to a party we have every thing good to eat. There is a young gentleman boarding here, he is an irishman his manors is Grand he is comeing to dinner I must leave off a while

Oh! how I shall wish to be with you all this summer, it will be so lonesome here Fanny Pollard and Susan Sutton are going to school at George Town Ky. they will start in a few weeks. They are the only girls in that I care about visiting, indeed Fanny and I are inseperable one never goes without the other, one never buys anything without the other, and we are just called one person. I am writing a good deal of foolishness here which you do not concern you, and of course will not interest you I heard from Will the other day by two men from Mississippi they have been to Texas and saw Will, and are return to Ala. he wrote to Pa to come to Texas and I do expect he will for he sent word to me by Dr Pollard that he was going on in the Spring for you and Beb and then come here and go to T. Will is doing very well in Texas

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When Matilda wrote this first letter, she was 16 years old and enjoying being at the center of social life in Fayetteville. She was attending the Fayetteville Female Seminary, run by Sophia Sawyer and considered one of the leading educational institutions on what was then the western frontier of America. When Matilda came to Arkansas initially, she lived with her sister Elizabeth Stirman. To attend school in Fayetteville, she joined the household of her cousin, Catherine Stirman.

Greensburg, Green Co., Ky., with a Fayetteville postmark of Feb. 20 and "10" written in for postage.

Fayetteville Ark. Feb 15 1846

Dear Sis,

I received your letter a few days ago that you directed to Norris Town. Dr. Stirman enclosed it and sent it to me. I did not go down with them. I am staying with cousin Kate Stirman. She and cousin Harvy [sic] would not let me go[.] I fixed to go with them but cousin H. told Dr S. that I should not go. cousin H. started this morning to the east for goods. We have had a very pleasant time this winter[.] there has been 8 parties scince [sic] Christmas night or not exactly parties but dances. sometimes we just go and dance and not have any thing to eat but a cup of coffee and a biscuit and then when we pretent to a party we have every thing good to eat. There is a young gentleman boarding here. he is an Irishman[.] his name is Grant[.] he is comeing [sic] to dinner. I must leave off a while.

Oh! how I shall wish to be with you all this summer. it will be so lonesome here[.] Fanny Pollard and Susan Sutton are going to school at George town Ky. they will start in a few weeks. they are the only girls in that I care about visiting. indeed Fanny and I are inseperable [sic] one never goes without the other, one never buys anything without the other, and we are just called one person. I am writing a good deal of foolishness here which do not concern you, and of course will not interest you[.] I heard from Will the other day by two men from Missouri[.] they have been to Texas and saw Will, and are returning to Mo. he wrote to Pa to come to Texas and I expect he will for he sent word to me by Dr. Pollard that he was going on in the Spring for you and Bob and then come here and go to T.

Will is doing very well in Texas

I had not heard of the death of little Mary until by your letter. I have not heard from Ky before for 4 months[.] I thought you all had forgotten me entirely

Thursday evening, 19th

While I was writing last Sunday Mr. Baylor came down and stayed all the evening and after tea Mr Grant stayed until 9 o clock, and of course I could not finish my letter, but I will finish it to go out in the morning.

I received a letter from brother Ja. Tuesday. I expect you have received one too for he wrote to you and the Dr. the same time that he did to me. Tell Charly Mat. he need not look so gloomy on that account, but I tell you there are some very fine looking beaux here, if it is in Arkansas[.] Charles G. Baylor Esq. is without any exception the finest looking gentleman I ever saw and Alfred M. Wilson Esq. is another and Mr. Joseph L. Dickson, cousin Harvey's partner Mr. Qualls, Dr. J.G. Deavenport are all very fine chances for any girl that wants to get married. tell the girls they will have to come to Ark to get married for it is the greatest country in the world

Tell Charly I thought he would have come to see me before this, and to think that he has not even written to me[.] I will wait until a letter has time to come and if he does not write I will any how

I have just finished a fine dress to ware [sic] to the ball on the 22 of Feb. I tell you I will shine in my new dress

I am just 5 feet 8 inches high. there is not but one lady in town as tall. that is cousin Kate. we are exactly the same hight [sic]

Tell brother Bob, I am going to write to him the very next letter I write to Ky and that will be soon

Please ask Aunt Jane to write to me and make all the girls write

Give my love to every one that I know, Kiss all the children for me and two Kisses for little Bob, and Flora

Farewell sister, Matilda

P.S. I congratulate Nanny or Mrs. Hobson on her marriage

The second letter was sent nearly two years later, after Matilda had married Jonas March Tebbetts. While in Fayetteville during 1846, Tebbetts had seen "a tall slender girl with soft, earnest dark eyes and an unusually clear, white complexion" — Matilda Winlock — but was not introduced to her. He later had chance to meet and court her, and they were married on April 19, 1847.

In the letter, she mentions Harris, a young slave owned by Matilda Winlock, whom she inherited from her grandfather's estate at the same time as two others, Tom and Amy. Harris and Amy moved from Norristown to Fayetteville when the Tebbettses settled there after the wedding. Tom was married to a slave owned by James and Elizabeth Stirman, and they had several children at Norristown. The Tebbettses, not wanting to break up the family, allowed Tom to stay at Norristown.

She also mentions apples being put up. The Tebbetts had not moved into their home on Dickson Street yet, but apples must have appealed to the family because they established orchards north of their house after it was built.

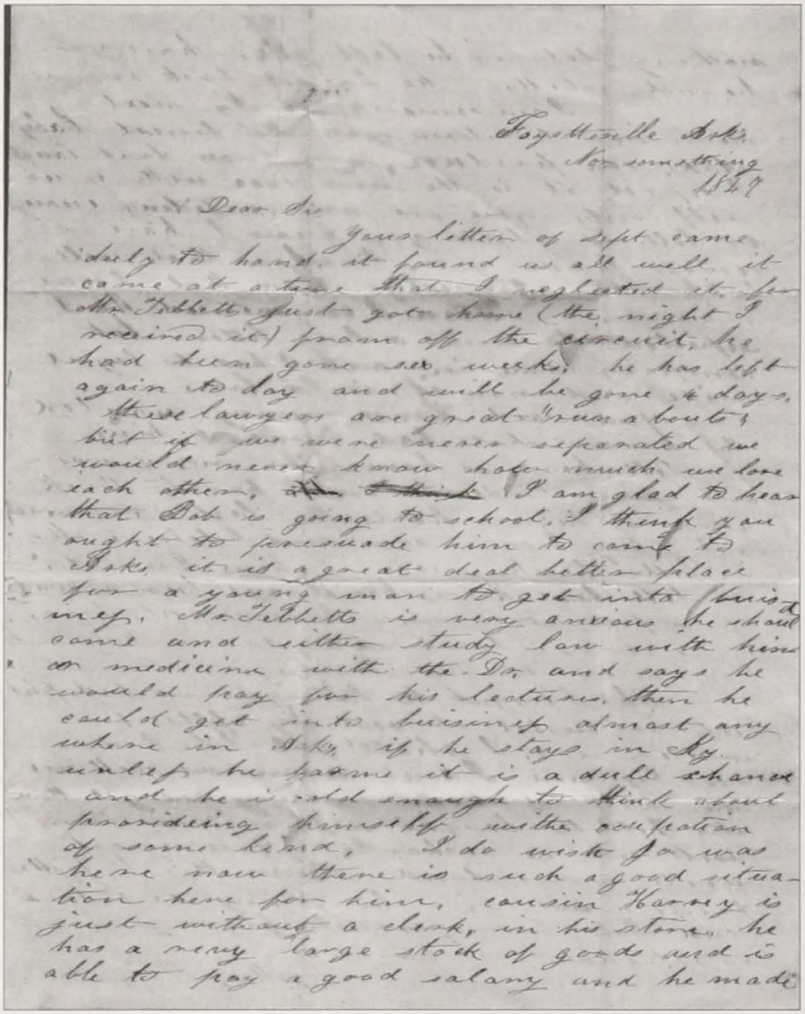
Matilda's sister, Louisa Winlock, had married during the intervening year, wedding James Durrett, a widower with several children and a large Kentucky farm near Latonia, Ky.

The second letter was addressed to L.A. Durrett, Latonia, Green Co., Ky., and postmarked at Fayetteville on Nov. 8 with "10" written as the postage.

Fayetteville Ark's.
Nov. something
1847

Dear Sis

Your letter of Sept. came duly to hand. it found us all well. it came at a time that I neglected it, for Mr. Tebbetts just got home (the night I received it) from off the circuit. he had been gone six weeks. he has left again to day and will be gone 4 days. these lawyers are great "run a bouts" but if we were never separated we would never know how much we love each other. I am glad to hear that Bob is going to school. I think you ought to persuade him to come to Ark's. it is a great deal better place for a young man to get into buiseness. Mr. Tebbets is very anxious he should come and either study law with him or medicine with the Dr. and says he would pay for his lectures. then he could get into buisiness almost any where in Ark's. if he stays in Ky. unless he farms[,] it is a dull chance and he is old enough to think about providing himself withe ocupation of some kind. I do wish Ja was here now there is



Fayetteville Ark.
Nov something
1867

Dear Sis

Yours letter of Sept came duly to hand. it found us all well. it came at a time that I neglected it. for Mr Tebbetts just got home (the night I received it) from off the circuit, he had been gone six weeks, he has left again to day and will be gone 4 days. these lawyers are great rum a bouts but if we were never separated we would never know half how much we love each other. ~~I think~~ I am glad to hear that Bob is going to school. I think you ought to persuade him to come to Ark. it is a great deal better place for a young man to get into business. Mr Tebbetts is very anxious he should come and either study law with him or medicine with the Dr and says he would pay for his lectures. then he could get into business almost anywhere in Ark, if he stays in Ky. unless he farms it is a dull chance and he is old enough to think about providening himself with some occupation of some kind. I do wish Jo was here now there is such a good situation here for him, cousin Harvey is just without a clerk, in his store, he has a very large stock of goods and is able to pay a good salary and he made

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By the time Matilda sent this second letter, she was married to Jonas March Tebbetts for about seven months earlier. They had not built their home on Dickson Street yet, nor had they yet started having children. The second letter is signed "Mat," which came to be Jonas Tebbetts' shortened nickname for his wife. The Tebbetts had seven children, four of whom lived to adulthood: Clinton Hale, Marian, Lillian and Howard.

such a good situation here for him. cousin Harvey is just without a clerk, in his store. he has a very large stock of goods and is able to pay a good salary and he made nothing before he left Mo. have you heard whether he had got back or not

I am coming to Ky. next summer to show you the finest baby Ark's. can produce. now don't laugh[.] I expect it is the same case with yourself only you are not confiding enough to tell it but you know I have no secrets from you. I reckon that will be harder to realize than that I was married. When I commenced this I expected to write a long letter but company came in and I had to lay it aside and now it is too late.

You said Harris' mammy wanted to know what had become of him.

Tell her we have him and if was our own childe he could hardly think more of him. he is the best and smartest boy I ever saw and I believe Mr. Tebbetts thinks more of him than I do.

Tell her Harris has always been a kind of a pet ever since he came out here. he always lived with cousin Kate until we went to house keeping.

Oh! I forgot to tell you we had put up 200 bushels of real Ky. apples for winter use. I shall feel like I was in Ky. now. I dont mean we will use the half of them the way we got them Mr. Tebbetts bought a farm near town with a fine orchard. you must write soon dand [sic] show this to brother James but give him my best love and Bob two[.] farewell from your affectionate sister

Mat. Tebbetts

Also written on the note in an apparent afterthought:

Mr. Jone March Tebbetts
or in other words
Jonas March Tebbetts Esq
this is the name I want you to call him by, brother Jone

Planned Gifts

Making charitable gifts to the Washington County Historical Society will enable it to continue and expand its programs.

If you are making regular gifts to the Washington County Historical Society or would like to start, you may find it beneficial to set up or give:

1. A **charitable lead trust** that will pay income to WCHS for a set period.
2. A **charitable remainder trust** that will allow you to transfer property to a trust set up for WCHS without paying capital gains tax on the sale of the property.
3. **Appreciated securities** at their current value and take an income tax deduction for the year up to 30 percent of adjusted gross income.
4. **Gifts from your retirement account** that could be an integral part of planning for those withdrawals.
5. An **irrevocable life insurance trust** that could own your life insurance, when it no longer serves its purpose, to make a charitable gift that could reduce the estate's tax bill.

There are a number of ways to enhance your retirement plans while still providing for your charitable interests and making gifts you never dreamed possible. Consult with your financial adviser on other ways you can make charitable donations. These planned gifts will provide added tax benefits for you and your heir while helping to support the vital mission of the Washington County Historical Society for years to come.

Flashback

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